

**Introduced by Senators Correa, Vidak, Berryhill, Cannella,  
Galgiani, Lara, Nielsen, Padilla, and Torres**

June 26, 2014

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Senate Resolution No. 53—Relative to California Chrome.

1 WHEREAS, California has a long and proud thoroughbred  
2 racing history, dating back some 160 years. In particular, the  
3 Central Valley has been the birthplace of champions since the  
4 1880s. California Chrome, born and raised at Harris Farms in  
5 Coalinga, continues that tradition and has become an outstanding  
6 representative of his namesake state; and

7 WHEREAS, California horse racing today accounts for an  
8 estimated 50,000 jobs, 148,000 thoroughbred horses, and a \$2.5  
9 billion impact on the state's economy. Combining athleticism,  
10 grace, beauty, and speed, this sport reaches millions of fans  
11 worldwide and carries priceless positive impressions of what  
12 California has to offer; and

13 WHEREAS, The Kentucky Derby is the world's most famous  
14 horse race and part of the celebrated Triple Crown of thoroughbred  
15 racing for three-year-old horses only. Along with the Preakness  
16 and Belmont Stakes, these three classics are the races that horse  
17 owners, breeders, trainers, and jockeys all dream of winning; and

18 WHEREAS, This spring, California Chrome won the 140th  
19 Kentucky Derby and 139th Preakness Stakes, the first time a  
20 California-bred colt swept the first two legs of the Triple Crown.  
21 Both victories ended lengthy droughts for the state's racing  
22 industry. California Chrome became the fourth California-born  
23 Derby winner and first since 1962 and California's fifth Preakness  
24 winner and first since 1986; and

1 WHEREAS, It takes a very special horse to reach national  
2 prominence by winning multiple races at multiple tracks across  
3 the country. In his career so far, California Chrome has won races  
4 at California's Hollywood Park, Del Mar, and Santa Anita Park,  
5 in addition to Kentucky's Churchill Downs and Maryland's Pimlico  
6 Race Course at distances from 4 ½ furlongs to 1 ¼ miles; and

7 WHEREAS, Among California Chrome's eight career victories  
8 there was a six-stakes win streak featuring such milestones as the  
9 King Glorious Stakes, the final stakes event held at Hollywood  
10 Park, and the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby as well as the Kentucky  
11 Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and

12 WHEREAS, California Chrome, a chestnut-colored horse as  
13 golden as his home state, transcended thoroughbred horse racing  
14 to become an international phenomenon not just with his brilliant  
15 speed and winning ways, but due to his heart-warming story and  
16 the people who make up his team; and

17 WHEREAS, California is a state where people are unafraid to  
18 dream big and that's in part what inspired four fans to cross over  
19 into horse ownership and become first-time breeders. An  
20 inspiration to the "little guys" everywhere, Perry and Denise Martin  
21 of Yuba City and Steve and Carolyn Coburn of Topaz Lake,  
22 Nevada, became partners in a mare, Love the Chase, who they  
23 bought from a syndicate for \$8,000. After someone scoffed at their  
24 perceived foolishness, the couples named their new venture "Dumb  
25 Ass Partners (D.A.P.) Racing"; and

26 WHEREAS, The partners sent their lone mare to Harris Farms  
27 to be bred and chose the stallion Lucky Pulpit, owned by Mr. and  
28 Mrs. Larry Williams. California Chrome is Love the Chase's first  
29 foal. Before the colt was born, Steve Coburn vividly dreamed about  
30 the big chestnut colt with four white legs and distinctive blaze and  
31 felt sure the newborn was destined for greatness; and

32 WHEREAS, After a difficult birth, the mare was nursed back  
33 to health by the excellent and attentive veterinary staff at Harris  
34 Farms. This hands-on care also imprinted a love for people on her  
35 intelligent and precocious son nicknamed "Junior." Developing  
36 his mind and body, California Chrome spent his first two years at  
37 Harris Farms, where he was groomed to be a racehorse; and

38 WHEREAS, When it came time to start racing, the partners sent  
39 their only racehorse to trainer Art Sherman with the proclamation  
40 that this was "his Derby horse" and a suggested road map of races

1 to qualify. Sherman's prior Derby experience was as the exercise  
2 rider for California-bred 1955 Kentucky Derby winner Swaps.  
3 Coincidentally, California Chrome is Swaps' great-great-great-great  
4 grandson; and

5 WHEREAS, California Chrome, as he prepared for the Triple  
6 Crown trail, gained his foundation and experience in the lucrative  
7 Golden State Series for Cal-bred horses, confirming the value and  
8 significance of the state's breeding program; and

9 WHEREAS, Art Sherman, at age 77, became the oldest trainer  
10 to win the Kentucky Derby. California Chrome also became the  
11 first Derby and Preakness winner trained at Los Alamitos Race  
12 Course in Cypress, California; and

13 WHEREAS, Success is the result of teamwork and California  
14 Chrome's campaign is no exception. Jockey Victor Espinoza  
15 guided the colt to those six straight stakes wins. Assistant trainer  
16 Alan Sherman served as his father's right-hand man and  
17 accompanied their Triple Crown candidate for six weeks on the  
18 road; and

19 WHEREAS, Groom Raul Rodriguez became California  
20 Chrome's constant companion, attending to his every need.  
21 Exercise rider Willie Delgado made sure the colt paid attention to  
22 his morning lessons; and

23 WHEREAS, California Chrome's Triple Crown bid fell short  
24 when he injured a hoof at the start of the 146th Belmont Stakes,  
25 yet valiantly finished tied for fourth only  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lengths from victory.  
26 That loss did not diminish his amazing accomplishments; and

27 WHEREAS, In any sport, it takes an extraordinary athlete to  
28 become a household name. California Chrome joined a short list  
29 of such equine superstars as Seabiscuit and Secretariat with  
30 cross-over appeal and the ability to make new fans as evidenced  
31 by his thousands of "Chromies"; and

32 WHEREAS, California Chrome became, as Art Sherman said,  
33 a "California rock star" and the latest example that California  
34 dreams can come true; and

35 WHEREAS, California Chrome's grit, determination, and heart  
36 carried him far beyond this state; it made California Chrome  
37 "America's horse"; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate  
39 recognizes the outstanding performance of California Chrome  
40 during his remarkable run for thoroughbred horse racing's Triple

1 Crown, and, in particular, for his tremendous victories in the  
2 Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes and congratulates the many  
4 Californians who are part of the ownership group, breeding and  
5 training cadre, and other essential elements that led to the success  
6 of California Chrome; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the storied history of  
8 thoroughbred horse racing in California, and its important  
9 contributions to job creation and the state's economy that result  
10 from a vibrant California thoroughbred horse racing industry; and  
11 be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
13 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.